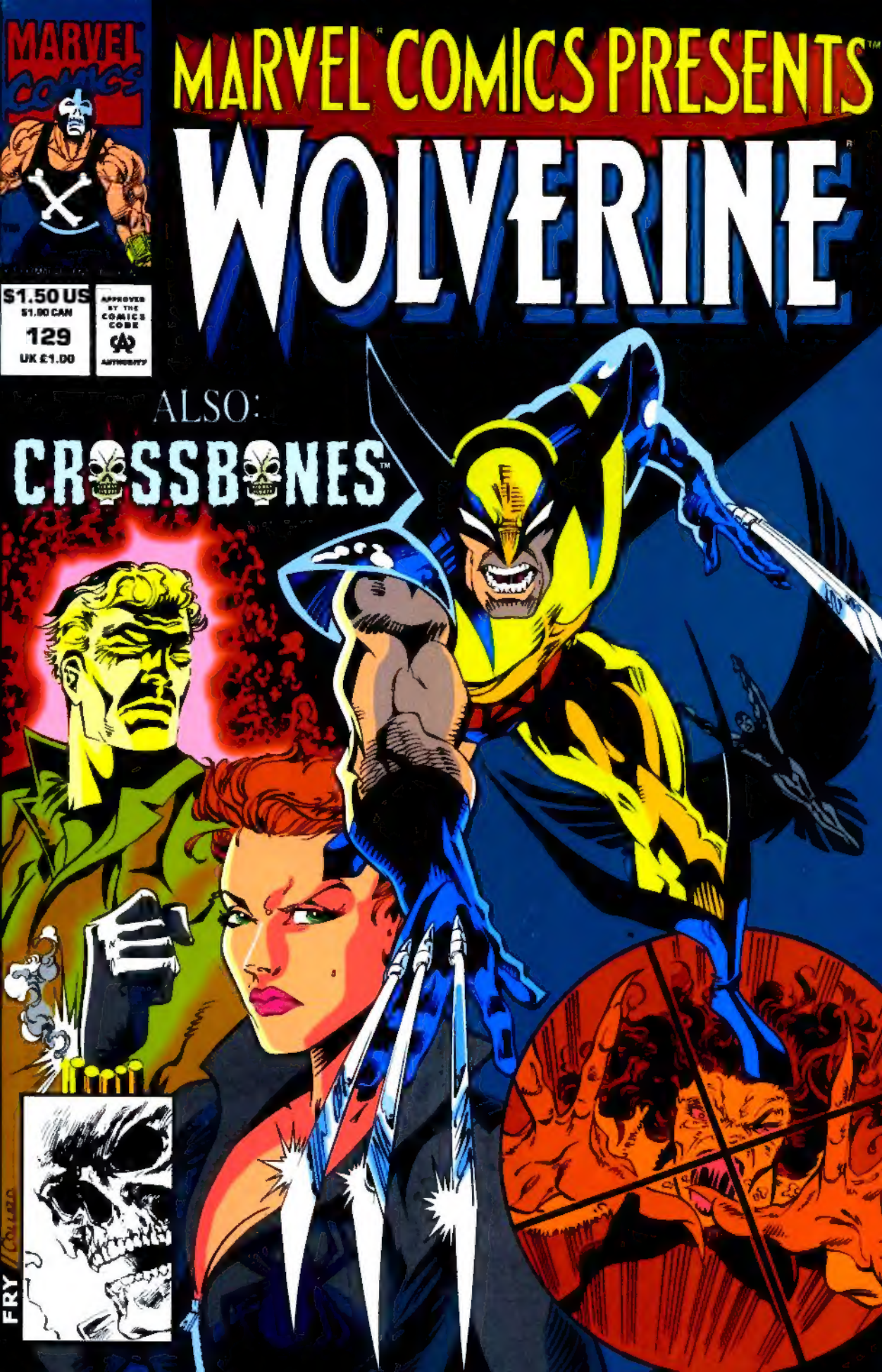
MARVEL COMICS
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WOLVERINE
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ALSO:
CROSSBONES
FRY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

WOLVERINE

James Fry/Hector Collazo — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

WOLVERINE/ LYNX 1

PASSION PLAY
Part 7 of 8
"THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY"

Wolverine has made the fateful decision to allow the Lynx to revert to her true form. Now, along with the Black Widow, he plans to take the fight to her tormentors!

Plot — SCOTT LOBDELL
Script – DAN SLOTT
Penciler— DENNIS JENSEN
Inkers —JON HOLDREDGE/DENNIS JENSEN
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist —KELLY CORVESE

pg.

CROSSBONES 9

"A TIME TO DIE"

Crossbones, the brutal minion of the Red Skull, has the perfect opportunity to escape prison when he's taken to a hospital for his regular health and psychiatric evaluation. But then, he gets caught in the middle of a hostage situation...

Writer — JOHN FIGUEROA
Penciler — RON WILSON
Inker—DON HUDSON
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist — DAVE SAMPSON

MARVEL ® COMICS PRESENTS Vol. 1, No. 129, 1993 (ISSN # 1044-7180) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published biweekly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $1.90 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $18.00, foreign $30.00, and Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. WOLVERINE and GHOST RIDER (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, c/o MARVEL COMICS SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.

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Dear Terry and Mark,

Re: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #125

Okay, let's get started. Wolverine Cover: B.

Wolverine/Lynx: So far, this has been an interesting mystery. I don't care much for Le Peregrine, but the addition of the Black Widow should make things very exciting. The art by Dennis and John was adequate. Rating: B.

She-Hulk: This tale is leaving me totally cold—frozen in ice! The Adrenazon isn't very interesting, and Nosferata is kind of stupid. The art by Dave and Robert was excellent, though. Rating: C.

Ghost Rider/Typhoid Mary Cover: A+.

Ghost Rider/Typhoid Mary: Excellent!! This is the best Ghost Rider story ever!! I don't know much about Mary, but G.R.'s reaction to shedding innocent blood was freaky. The art by Steve and Chris was top-notch. Rating: A+.

Iron Fist: Again, Joey Cavalieri strikes gold! The more I see of Iron Fist, the more I can't wait for the new series. Skeleton Ki was very interesting—even a match for Danny. The art by Dave and Jeff was great! Rating: A+.

Finally, one request. Kevin West has become one of my favorite artists. Is there any chance of him doing some work for MCP in the near future?

Kevin Hall
5437-F Bradley Pines Circle
Sandston, VA 23150

There's definitely a chance, Kevin, but we have no plans with him right now. Thanks for writing.

Dear Terry and Mark,

Re: MCP #125:

I'm a little confused. It seems that the art of Dennis Jensen and John Holdredge on the Wolvie story looks more like Steve Lightle's art than Lightle's does (on the Ghost Rider serial). Are you sure you haven't been getting the credits backwards? In any case, both stories are going strong. "Passion Play" is intriguing. It's risky to rely on lesser-known characters like Le Peregrine for the main story, but I think he works well here—and the inclusion of the Black Widow to the fray should prove even more interesting. A minor complaint, though—the Flesh Tones? Groan. But that's the risk you run when your story is written by a stand-up comic... A-.

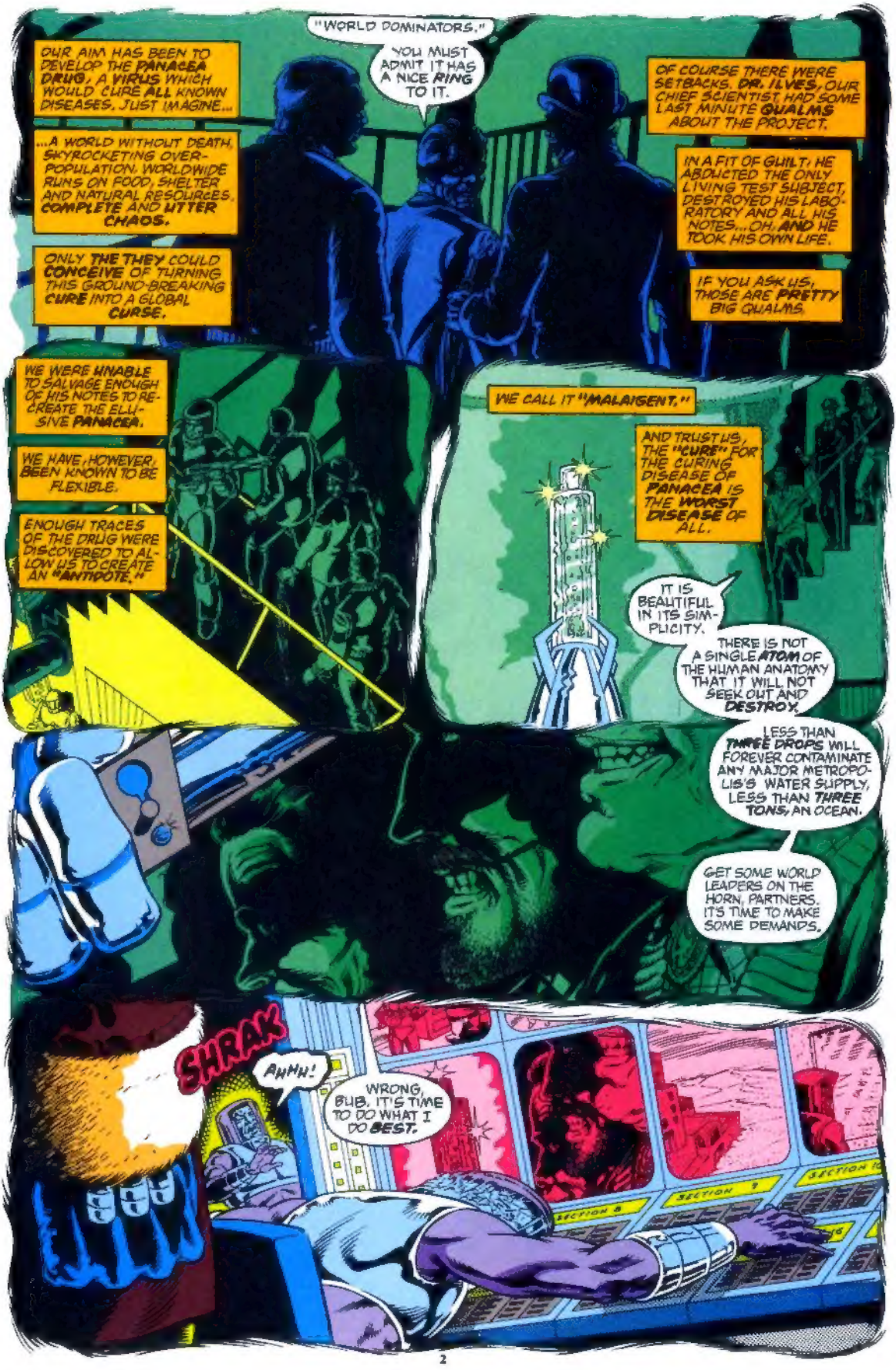
"Adrenazon's Revenge" is fun, and I like seeing Nosferata again, but I prefer to see She-Hulk talking to her readers like she does in her own book. Some people think it's stupid and childish, but I always get a kick out of it; the humor is a big part of Jennie's charm. B-

I don't like GHOST RIDER and I rarely read DAREDEVIL, so I know very little about Typhoid Mary, but Ann Nocenti's stories are always worth reading. Brr... "The Walking Wounded" is really chilling. Nocenti is the first writer that I know of who is willing to explore the religious ramifications of Ghost Rider's "holy war" against those who spill the blood of innocents. Her work is so perceptive and thought-provoking (a little too brutal and violent for my tastes, though). The art is nice, but at times the abstract coloring makes it hard to clearly see exactly what's going on—a minor problem. B+

And finally, we have Iron Fist in "The Book of Changes." It's off to a good start. This Skeleton Ki creep looks to be a worthy opponent, and the mysterious triangular treasure is intriguing. I must say, though, that I cringe when I see the all-too-familiar art style. C.

Scott Haan
920 State St.
Lafayette, IN 47905

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY
Passion Play
PART SEVEN
FEATURING
WOLVERINE
AND
THE LYNX
A SECRET INSTALLATION, HIDDEN AWAY IN THE ANTARCTIC...
WE ARE THE THIRD PERSON, THE UNSEEN FORCES THAT SHAPE AND CONTROL MANKIND.
THE CONTENTS IN THE VIAL ARE READY, MY FRIENDS.
STRANGE THAT SOMETHING SO SMALL WILL GRANT US DOMINION OVER THIS WORLD.
WE ARE THE EASTERNER
THE OCCIDENTAL
AND MERIDIAN
CALL US THEY.


"WORLD DOMINATORS."
YOU MUST ADMIT IT HAS A NICE RING TO IT.
OUR AIM HAS BEEN TO DEVELOP THE PANACEA DRUG, A VIRUS WHICH WOULD CURE ALL KNOWN DISEASES. JUST IMAGINE...
...A WORLD WITHOUT DEATH, SKYROCKETING OVER-POPULATION. WORLDWIDE RUNS ON FOOD, SHELTER AND NATURAL RESOURCES. COMPLETE AND UTTER CHAOS.
ONLY THE THEY COULD CONCEIVE OF TURNING THIS GROUND-BREAKING CURE INTO A GLOBAL CURSE.
OF COURSE THERE WERE SETBACKS. DR. ILVES, OUR CHIEF SCIENTIST, HAD SOME LAST MINUTE QUALMS ABOUT THE PROJECT.
IN A FIT OF GUILT, HE ABDUCTED THE ONLY LIVING TEST SUBJECT, DESTROYED HIS LABORATORY AND ALL HIS NOTES...OH, AND HE TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.
IF YOU ASK US, THOSE ARE PRETTY BIG QUALMS.
WE WERE UNABLE TO SALVAGE ENOUGH OF HIS NOTES TO RE-CREATE THE ELUSIVE PANACEA.
WE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN KNOWN TO BE FLEXIBLE.
ENOUGH TRACES OF THE DRUG WERE DISCOVERED TO ALLOW US TO CREATE AN "ANTIDOTE."
WE CALL IT "MALAISENT."
AND TRUST US, THE "CURE" FOR THE CURING DISEASE OF PANACEA IS THE WORST DISEASE OF ALL.
IT IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS SIMPLICITY.
THERE IS NOT A SINGLE ATOM OF THE HUMAN ANATOMY THAT IT WILL NOT SEEK OUT AND DESTROY.
LESS THAN THREE DROPS WILL FOREVER CONTAMINATE ANY MAJOR METROPOLIS'S WATER SUPPLY. LESS THAN THREE TONS, AN OCEAN.
GET SOME WORLD LEADERS ON THE HORN, PARTNERS. IT'S TIME TO MAKE SOME DEMANDS.
SHRAK
AHHH!
WRONG, BUB. IT'S TIME TO DO WHAT I DO BEST.
SECTION 8
SECTION 9
SECTION 10

WRRR?
YOU DID GOOD, LYNX. I KNEW THERE WAS A SCRAPPER IN YOU.
WELL, WOLVERINE, WE'VE TAKEN OVER THEY'S SURVEILLANCE CENTER. WHAT'S OUR NEXT COURSE OF ACTION?
NEVER WAS ONE FOR TACT, WIDOW. I SAY WE MAKE LIKE BULLS IN A CHINA SHOP. TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM.
FINE, THEN I'M FOR LEAVING THE CHILD HERE.
NO GO, NATASHA. YOUR SHIELD SOURCES SAY THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THEY USED LYNX FOR A GUINEA PIG, INJECTING HER WITH THE PANACEA.
SHE'S MORE 'N ENTITLED TO HER PIECE OF THE ACTION!
ALL RIGHT, BUT LET'S AT LEAST USE SOME OF THIS EQUIPMENT TO CALL IN SOME BACK-UP. SHIELD, THE AVENGERS, X-MEN, ANYBODY.
DON'T THINK IT'LL BE NECESSARY, 'TASH'. TAKE A LOOK AT THE MONITOR.
LOOKS LIKE OUR OLD PAL IMUS CHAMPION'S DECIDED TO CRASH THIS LITTLE PARTY, TOO.
10
YOU KNOW, FOR A SECRET BASE, THIS PLACE IS PRETTY EASY TO FIND.
HRRR?
WHAT SAY WE HELP 'EM OUT WITH THAT PROBLEM, WIDOW.
LET'S TAKE THIS PLACE OFF THE MAP!

PERFECTION IS HARD TO COME BY THESE DAYS. IT IS HARD NOT TO FEEL A CERTAIN SENSE OF PRIDE IN OUR ACCOMPLISHMENT.
WE HAVE CREATED SOMETHING NEW AND HORRIFYING. WE HAVE TAKEN A NIGHTMARE UNDREAMT OF AND BROUGHT IT INTO THIS WORLD.
TWELVE FLUID OUNCES OF THE PERFECT PREDATOR, PURE AND DISTILLED.
IT'S DONE.
YOU KNOW, AFTER OPPENHEIMER SAW THE EFFECTS OF HIS CREATION, THE ATOMIC BOMB, HE WAS HEARD TO SAY--
--"I AM BECOME SHIVA, THE DESTROYER; DEATH; THE SHATTERER OF WORLDS."
WHAT WORDS SHALL MARK THIS SOLEMN MOMENT OF HISTORY?
HOW 'BOUT "OWW! DEAR GOD! STOP POUNDING ON MY FACE WITH THOSE ADAMANTIUM-LACED FISTS!"?
LYNX?!
RRRRRAWR!
OKAY, BUB, WHAT SAY WE DO THIS THE EASY WAY? JUST HAND OVER THE VIRUS AND TURN YOURSELVES IN.
TEN SPOT SAYS THEY DO IT THE HARD WAY.
BACK AWAY FROM THE GIRL, NOW!
GRRRREEEH FFT FFT
KLIK-IK KLIK-IK
AHEM.
NO DEAL, EH? DIDN'T FLAMIN' SHAKE ON IT.

ATTACK!
ZKOW
ZKOW
ZKOW
LYNX! HERE? WELL, THIS SIMPLIFIES MATTERS!
I CAME HERE FOR THE MALAIGENT, HOPING MY SCIENTISTS COULD USE IT TO DERIVE A VERSION OF THE PANACEA.
IMUS CHAMPION? HOW DID HE--?
FORGOT TO TELL YOU, PAL. ME 'N' THE WIDOW TOOK DOWN YOUR SECURITY SYSTEM.
IMUS HERE'S BEEN WORKING HIS WAY UP YOUR COMPLEX'S LOWER LEVELS FOR NEARLY A QUARTER OF AN HOUR NOW.
BUT IT WOULD BE FAR EASIER TO USE THE PANACEA ALREADY SWIMMING THROUGH THE LYNX'S BLOOD!
NOT EVEN ON YER BEST DAY, CHAMPION!
YOU'D DARE DENY ME THE ONLY SALVATION FROM THE DISEASE WHICH RAVAGES MY BODY?!
IF HE DOESN'T, MONSIEUR, WE WILL!
THWAK
ZZZRAK
GUTEN TAG, WOLVERINE!
COURIER AND LE PEREGRINE!
OUI! WE HID AMONGST HIS MEN, WAITING FOR A PROPER TIME TO STRIKE!

WE ARE UNDONE!
GENTLEMEN, WHAT SAY WE CUT OUR LOSSES?
AGREED.
THIS SHOULD KEEP THEM BUSY.
RRAK
RROK
RRAK
PULSE-CANNONS HUM TO LIFE. REGRETTABLY, SOME OF OUR OWN MEN WILL BE TERMINATED.
BUT DON'T WORRY, WE HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT THEIR FAMILIES ARE WELL LOOKED AFTER.
SCHNELL! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
ZZZRACK
I'M ON IT.
/TASH/, WHERE'S THE KID?
I'M A LITTLE BUSY, LOGAN! HAVE TO MAKE SURE NO HARD DATA REGARDING MALAIGENT SURVIVES!
I'M SURE LYNX CAN FEND FOR HERSELF!
SMAK

UNHAND ME, YOU FOOLS! I MUST GET THE GIRL!
ENCROYABLE! I THOUGHT ONLY MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN WERE THAT SINGLE-MINDED!
STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?! K-KEEP AWAY!
MMMWRRR!
RRAWWWW!
'N' WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOIN', BUB?
NOW THAT OUR TRANS-MAT IS OPERATING?
I'D SAY FAR BEYOND YOUR REACH.
DON'T COUNT ON IT!
YOU WISH FOR SOMETHING TO COUNT ON, WOLVERINE? COUNT THREE OF THE MOST POWERFUL ENEMIES YOU HAVE EVER MADE!
OUR INFLUENCE IS FELT AROUND THE GLOBE. YOU WILL REGRET THIS DAY!
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT PARTNER?
I SAY...
..."DON'T GO ALL TO PIECES, FELLAS!"
CHUNK
NO! WHAT HAVE YOU DO--

AARGHHHH!!!
HURRY! WE MUST FIND THE GIRL AND THE VIRUS.
OH, I SEE THEM BOTH, MON AMI!
BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE THIS...
WHAT? OH, LYNX...
BLAST HER! ALL THAT WORK! THE GENIUS OF HALF A CENTURY! AND SHE RUINED IT ALL!
NO! SHE DIDN'T...
HEH... WAY TO GO, DARLIN'!
I WAS THINKIN' THE SAME THING, MYSELF...
PFEH!
...I COULD USE A STRONG DRINK!
BET YOU'D LIKE SOMETHING TO WASH THAT DOWN WITH?
NEXT ISSUE--PASSION PLAY CONCLUDES AS WE SEE SOME CLAWS AND EFFECTS.

COLORADO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL--NOON..
DR. CAROLYN LEPRE, PSYCHIATRIST, HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE SUPER-CRIMINAL KNOWN AS CROSSBONES IN A NEW PRISON PROGRAM.
FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS, CROSSBONES' THERAPY SESSIONS WITH DR. LEPRE HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO REHABILITATE--IF NOT REFORM--SUPER-POWERED CRIMINALS WHILE INCARCERATED
STRAIGHT FROM THE VAULT, DR LEPRE AND CROSSBONES ARRIVE AT COLORADO MEMORIAL...
DR. HARDY, WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY ARE A... THOSE POLICEMEN AND NEWS CAMERAS HERE?!
THE LEADER OF A TERRORIST GANG CALLING THEMSELVES FORTRESS WAS BROUGHT INTO EMERGENCY AN HOUR AGO
CROSS
POLICE
FORTRESS DEMANDS HE BE OPERATED ON IMMEDIATELY BY OUR TOP NEURO-SURGEON.
SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU'RE THE CHIEF OF STAFF--CALL ROGER WILSON; HE'S OUR TOP NEURO-SURGEON.
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, CAROLYN. ROGER IS ALREADY IN SURGERY WITH ANOTHER PATIENT AND...
...FORTRESS DOESN'T KNOW THIS YET BUT THEIR LEADER DIED TWENTY MINUTES AGO.
ROUGH DAY ALL AROUND I'D SAY.
CROSSBONES IN
A TIME TO DIE

THIS COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED AT A BETTER TIME. THESE "THERAPY" SESSIONS ARE THE ONLY CHANCE I GET TO LEAVE THE VAULT. THIS HOSTAGE SITUATION COULD BE JUST THE DISTRACTION I NEED TO ESCAPE.
THE POLICE AREN'T SURE WHAT TO DO
THE LEADER'S NAME IS LELAND TOWNSEND. IF FORTRESS FINDS OUT HE'S ALREADY DEAD, THE LIFE OF EVERY PATIENT IN THIS HOSPITAL COULD BE AT RISK.
HOSPITAL
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED TO TOWNSEND?
APPARENTLY FORTRESS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A TERRORIST BOMBING DOWNTOWN. MOST HOSPITALS IN THE AREA ARE OVER-CROWDED WITH EMERGENCY PATIENTS CAUGHT IN THE BLAST. THEIR LEADER WAS ONE OF THEM.
CROSSBONES, PLEASE!
NOT MUCH OF A LEADER IF YOU ASK ME.
DOES HE HAVE TO BE HERE?
DON'T WORRY. HE'S BEEN SEDATED. HE'S HARMLESS.
GOOD. THE LAST THING WE NEED IS ANOTHER CRIMINAL RUNNING AROUND THIS HOSPITAL.
TWO MEMBERS OF FORTRESS WERE PHOTOGRAPHED BY OUR SECURITY CAMERAS EARLIER.
THE ONE IN FRONT IS THE ONE WE'RE IN CONTACT WITH.
TELL ME, DR. HARDY, HAVE THEY MET YOUR TOP NEURO-SURGEON?
WELL... NO. NOT THAT I KNOW OF.
THEN WHY DON'T I GO UP THERE IN HIS PLACE
THE LEADER IS ALREADY DEAD. A NEURO-SURGEON IS NOT GOING TO BE OF MUCH HELP TO HIM NOW.
I DEAL WITH CRIMINALS' BEHAVIOR AND THEIR PSYCHE EVERY DAY. I COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO THEM TO TALK THEM OUT OF THIS SITUATION.
PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE AT STAKE, DOCTOR. WE MUST ACT NOW!
I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR MANY YEARS, CAROLYN. I TRUST YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
WHAT ABOUT CROSSBONES?
I'LL BE A GOOD BOY. PROMISE.
LET'S FIND A HEAVILY GUARDED ROOM FOR HIM UNTIL THIS IS OVER.

LATER...
WE'VE WORKED VERY HARD AND COME A LONG WAY IN REHABILITATING YOU. TRY NOT TO BLOW IT.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, CHIEF. WATCH YOUR BACK UP THERE...
YOU DO CARE
PLAYED POSSUM LONG ENOUGH
ONLY PRETENDED. THOSE SEDATIVES WORKED ON ME FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS.
THIS METAL CHAIR SHOULD DO THE TRICK.
CHA-KLANK
ARMED GUARDS AT THE DOORS AND WINDOWS
BESIDES, ESCAPING THIS WAY IS MUCH MORE CREATIVE.
THE SEVENTH FLOOR SECURITY OFFICE OF THE HOSPITAL...
FORTRESS -- THIS IS DR. HARDY, CHIEF OF STAFF. WE'VE SENT DR. WILSON, HEAD OF NEURO-SURGERY TO SCRUB UP. SHE'LL BE OPERATING ON YOUR FRIEND MOMENTARILY.
IT'S ABOUT TIME, HARDY. BY THE WAY, HE'S NOT MY FRIEND, HE'S MY BROTHER, AND WE'RE VERY TIGHT. IF HE DIES, ALL OF YOUR PATIENTS UP HERE WILL SUDDENLY BE CLASSIFIED AS TERMINAL.
YES, MR. TOWNSEND. JUST STAY CALM; YOUR BROTHER IS IN GOOD HANDS.
NEVER DOUBTED IT, HARDY.

ARE THEY SENDING THE DOCTOR UP?
YEAH, LOU. GET YOURSELF READY. JIM CALLING THE OTHERS--THEY'LL MEET US IN THE OPERATING ROOM.
NICK, RACINE, IT'S HAPPENING. RENDEZVOUS ON SIX.
CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. NICK IS THE BOMB EXPERT, WHY DID HE LET LEE DETONATE IT?
I GUESS I'M THE LEADER OF THIS GROUP UNTIL LEE GETS BACK ON HIS FEET
I ALWAYS SEEM TO WALK IN MY BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS, EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO FORTRESS.
LET'S GO.
LATER, DR. LEPRE--PRETENDING TO BE DR. WILSON--"OPERATES" ON THE LEADER OF FORTRESS AS ITS MEMBERS LOOK ON.
RACINE WELLS, LOU MASON, MARTY TOWNSEND AND NICHOLAS REED. EACH ONE COMES FACE TO FACE WITH DEATH EVERY DAY.
BUT NEVER WITH ONE OF THEIR OWN UNTIL TODAY.

TWO HOURS LATER-- THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS, BUT THE PATIENT DIED... A WHILE AGO.
I BOUGHT US SOME TIME PRETENDING TO OPERATE ON LELAND THEY SEEMED TO BUY IT
NOW WHAT DO I DO? IF THEY COME TOO CLOSE THEY'LL KNOW HE'S DEAD
I'VE GOT TO TELL THEM BEFORE THEY REALIZE WE'VE BEEN FOOLING THEM.
IS HE ALL RIGHT NOW?
YEAH, WHAT'S UP? CAN I TALK TO MY BROTHER?
HE LOOKS KIND OF PALE TO ME.
LET'S JUST GET HIM OUT OF HERE
NO, HE WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, LADY?
THERE WERE COMPLICATIONS... I'M SORRY.
HE... HE DIED
I KNEW IT! I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG!
YOU KEPT US HERE FOR NOTHING!
HE'S MY BROTHER! I COULDN'T LEAVE HIM HERE TO DIE!
LEE CALLED THE SHOTS AND LEE SCREWED UP!
SMAK
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM!
WHAM
YOU'RE THE BOMB EXPERT! WHY DID YOU LET LEE DO YOUR JOB ANYWAY?
YOU SHOULD BE DEAD, NOT MY BROTHER!
WAIT-- WHAT'S THAT NOISE?!
IT'S COMING FROM ABOVE.
SKKRANK
SOMEONE'S COMING THROUGH THE CEILING!
IT'S...

--CROSSBONES!
HI, DOC. I WAS WAITING FOR YOU DOWNSTAIRS, BUT I RAN OUT OF PATIENCE.
THWAK
BWAM
SORRY, PAL-- GOTTA BE QUICKER THAN THAT TO GET A CLEAN SHOT AT CROSSBONES.
I'VE GOT NOTHING AGAINST YOU GUYS..
...YOU COULD EVEN SAY WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE... SORTA.
POW
SMAK
BUT THE ONE THING I CAN'T LET YOU DO IS HARM DR. LEDRE.

YOU SEE, SHE'S MY TICKET OUT OF THE VAULT FOR GOOD
BY SAVING HER BUTT AND THE BUTTS OF EVERY PATIENT IN THIS HOSPITAL FROM TERRORISTS
I FIGURE THAT'S EVIDENCE ENOUGH OF MY "REHABILITATION"
I SHOULD BE ON THE STREETS AGAIN BY CHRISTMAS
SO CONSIDER THIS MY PRESENT TO SOCIETY
FOUR TO ONE S PRETTY GOOD ODDS N MY FAVOR ESPECIALLY WITHOUT YOUR WEAPONS.
SO UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO CRUSH YOUR HEADS AS EASILY AS I'VE CRUSHED YOUR PLANS OF TERRORISM.
I SUGGEST YOU CHECK YOURSELVES OUT OF THIS HOSPITAL

BUT WHAT ABOUT MY BROTHER?
HE'S DEAD. HE'LL BE BURIED. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM..
OKAY, WE'RE GOING. JUST BE COOL
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? I KNOW YOUR REP. YOU'RE ONE OF US. WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US..
FIRST OF ALL, I WORK ALONE. SECONDLY, EVEN IF I DID RUN WITH A PACK, IT WOULDN'T BE WITH LOSERS LIKE YOU.
NOW GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I DO SOMETHING REAL HEROIC LIKE SIT ON YOU UNTIL THE COPS GET UP HERE
MAN, YOU'RE CRAZY. YOU COULD ESCAPE WITH US, BUT YOU CHOOSE TO STAY?
MY BROTHER MIGHT HAVE SCREWED UP AND GOTTEN HIMSELF KILLED BUT HE'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN IN PRISON.
WE'RE OUTTA HERE
THEY WON'T GET FAR.
WITH THE HOSPITAL SURROUNDED BY POLICE, THE WEAPONLESS "FORTRESS" WILL BE ARRESTED BEFORE THEY CAN SAY "BEDPAN."
ME-- I'VE GOT PLANS OF MY OWN.
A SUCCESSFUL ESCAPE INVOLVES PLANNING AND THE RIGHT TIMING.
AND NOW JUST AIN'T IT
BUT SOON-- VERY SOON..
END.

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AND
GHOST RIDER
TYPHOID MARY
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Dear Terry,

Like they say about vintage wine, MCP certainly improves with age. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #126 was very good...

1) Wolverine: Improving, if I do say so myself. Black Widow filled a gap that was present in the plot of this story, and Scott Lobdell's script was very interesting. I am intrigued about the fate of the Lynx, and I hope next issue will be as good. Dennis and John's art was also good, except for Black Widow and certain other panels that look as if they were handled by a different inker. Overall grade: B+.

2) She-Hulk: It figures that when a story picks up pace, it's over. The fourth and final part of "Adrenazon's Revenge" was probably the best. Kelly's script was a nice conclusion to a pretty boring story to start with. No, boring isn't the word—campy is better. Dave Hoover and Robert Campanella also did a good job. Total Grade, Parts 1-4: B-.

3) Ghost Rider: Definitely the best this issue. Seemingly implanted with renewed spirit, "Walking Wounded" is once again becoming very fascinating. Steve Lightle and Ann Nocenti's story was great, and picked up the slow pace that has plagued the last few chapters. Steve also did a great job on pencils, inks and colors, as well as letterer Ken Lopez. Definitely an improvement, and not your average Ghost Rider story. This is what defines horror, and not your typical super hero exploit. Overall Grade: A.

4) Iron Fist: It's too early for comment on "The Book of Changes," but I am very interested in what is happening here. Iron Fist has developed into a great character since Byrne brought him back from the Great Beyond, and I'm awaiting his new comic. Meanwhile, Cavalieri and the great Hoover/Albrecht artwork will be sufficient. Overall Grade: A.

5) Ghost Rider Cover: A+.

6) Wolverine Cover: A-. Interesting design, guys.

Well, I hope my opinions this issue are more in synch with readers than last issue. I think I was the only person writing who disliked the Speedball story. Maybe next issue's will be better. Keep up the good work, and I'd like to see more of Marvel's best shining in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS! Also, I'd like to see more previews of new titles, or even excerpts from less popular ones!

Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 2197
Union, NJ 07083

We don't mind if your answers are different than other people's, Joey. It seems inevitable that people's tastes would vary greatly while reading a book containing four different stories. We encourage dissent! We only ask that you keep writing!

Dear Terry,

Hey, MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #126 was great! From the humor in She-Hulk to the intensity of Wolverine and Iron Fist, this issue really blew me away! My only complaint is that I'm still having a hard time following the Ghost Rider/Typhoid Mary story. But , since G.R. is my favorite character, I'll stick with it.

Robert Fraser
14145 Merriman Rd.
Livonia, MI 48154

Well, now what do you think of "The Walking Wounded," Robert?

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

GHOST RIDER

Jae Lee — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — COWBOYS FAN
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

GHOST RIDER/ TYPHOID MARY 1
THE WALKING WOUNDED
Part 7 of 8
"PEAK THE PATHOS"

The ruthless, brutal, insane halves of Typhoid Mary and Ghost Rider are trapped in the Realm of Insanity–and they love it! Dusk now attacks with a new force: Necromancer!

Story — ANN NOCENTI/STEVE LIGHTLE
Writer – ANN NOCENTI
Artist — STEVE LIGHTLE
Letterer —DAVE SHARPE
Colorists — STEVE & MARIANNE LIGHTLE

pg.

IRON FIST 9
THE BOOK OF CHANGES
Part 5 of 8
"FRIENDSHIP REARS ITS UGLY HEAD"

After fighting off the menace of Warrant, Danny made new allies in his quest to find the true origin of the anomaly. But its mysterious suitors still long for the power held within it, and will stop at nothing–even threatening Danny's newfound friends–to acquire it!

Writer —JOEY CAVALIERI
Pencilers — BILL WYLIE/CHRIS RENKEWITZ
Inkers—BUD LaROSA/PETER PALMIOTTI/ BILL WYLIE
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — MIKE THOMAS

NEXT ISSUE: THE SENSES-SHATTERING CONCLUSION TO THE GHOST RIDER/TYPHOID MARY EPIC! IRON FIST IS TRAPPED WITHIN THE VERY "LIVING ROOM"! WOLVERINE HELPS THE LYNX MEET HER FINAL FATE! AMERICAN EAGLE IN "SCREAMS"!

I AM DUSK, AND THIS IS MY REALM.
TIME HAS NO MEANING HERE, FOR THE CLOCK TICK TICK TICKS ONLY FOR THE SANE.
GHOST RIDER HAS PASSED A THOUSAND DAYS OF MY TIME HERE WITH ME.
FLEE IF YOU CAN, NECROMANCER!
MONTHS... YEARS... AND SO FAMILIAR IS HE WITH THE REALM OF THE INSANE--
--HE FINALLY KNOWS WHERE HE BELONGS
BUT THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE BURNS AT THE HEELS OF YOUR SHADOW!
FOOL. DON'T YOU SEE? INSIDE INSANITY, IT IS YOUR MIND THAT CREATES THE LANDSCAPE!
YOU CREATED ME! YOU HAVE BECOME AS MUCH A MINION OF DUSK AS I!
NEVER, FOUL ONE! I WILL BRAND YOUR EVERY LIE WITH TWICE THE FIRE!--
"--FOR THE GHOST RIDER--
--LIVES--
"--FOR--
--RETRIBUTION!
K-KRSH
GHOST RIDER
TYPHOID MARY
PEAK THE PATHOS
WALKING WOUNDED PT 7

MY NECROMANCER, I AM PLEASED WITH YOU.
YOU LURE HIM INTO HIS OWN RIVER OF FIERY OBSESSION. YOU FORCE HIM TO CLIMB A MOUNTAIN OF BRIMSTONE HYSTERIA ..
.. YOU SHOW HIM THE PENANCE SEA OF SOULS, CAST HIM UNDER THE S[illegible] BLACK SUN...
... DRIVE HIM MANIC, KEEP HIM ENRAGED, FOR THE LONGER HE FORSAKES HIS TEMPERATE HALF, THE SOONER HE WILL BE MINE.
AND THE MORE WARRIORS I ACQUIRE FOR THE CAUSE OF MADNESS--
-- THE SOONER THE SISTER REALM OF NIGHTMARE WILL BECOME VULNERABLE TO ME!
FORTIFY HIS TOWER OF VENGEANCE AND HE WILL BECOME VULNERABLE TO ME!
FATAL FLAW, RIDER--
--USE THIS REALM--AND IT USES YOU.

ELSEWHERE IN THE REALM...
I NEVER WOULD BELIEVED IT POSSIBLE!
I THOUGHT I COULD SURVIVE WITHOUT A MAN, RAISE MY CHILD ALONE.
..BUT NOW HERE YOU ARE-- SECURITY, POWER, STRENGTH--ALL FOR ME?
FAIR LADY EVE, I SWEAR BY THE TENOR OF MY SWORD AS IT RESONATES TO THE BEAT OF YOUR HEART--
--I AM YOURS.
I PLEDGE MY NOBLE BLOOD TO THEE..
OH, YES, TELL US MORE.
PROMISE US FOREVER!
WHO SPEAKS?
MARY!
WE ARE BUT DEFENSELESS LAMBS, WE WOULD FAINT AND FADE AWAY--
--WERE IT NOT FOR THE SINEWS OF YOUR TIMBER, THE STEEL OF YOUR BACKBONE, OH GREAT MAN.
NO. PLEASE DON'T GO!
I MUST FOR THE MOCKERY OF THE FALSE DAMSEL HAS OPENED MY EYES.
I CAME A SHADOW'S BREATH FROM BETRAYING THE DUSK
GOODBYE, EVE.
MARY! WHAT DID YOU SAY? WHAT DID IT MEAN? WHY DID HE GO?
DON'T YOU SEE? HE WAS EXPLOITING YOUR FEAR THAT YOU CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT A MAN.
BUT LOOK AT US! WITHOUT MEN - WE THRIVE!

HOW COULD YOU..
..HE LOVED ME!
I DID IT FOR YOU, EVE AND FOR YOUR BABY.
..NEVER TRUST A MAN!
WATCH I WILL TURN MY MIND INSIDE OUT FOR YOU-- PROJECT MY PAST ONTO THE WALLS OF THIS STRANGE REALM...
SEE WHAT TRUST IS!
HERE I AM, A GENTLY CURLED FETUS..
..FORCED EVEN IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB TO LISTEN TO THE HARSH WORDS OF MY SCREAMING PARENTS, CRASHING ON MY MOTHER'S BELLY WALL..

"MARY'S CRYING..
"OH, HOW SAD.. BUT LOOK THERE!
"ANOTHER GHOST COME TO COMFORT HER! IT IS EVE!
"OH, MY GOD, HOW SWEET...

...I CURL TIGHTER.
AND WHEN BORN, EVERY NIGHT THE SHADOW OF VIOLENCE AND CRUELTY PASSES OVER MY BODY.
..I CRINGE IN MY CRIB
AND THEN I HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS THAT I COME TO LEARN MEAN UNWELCOME TOUCHES...
..AND I SHUT MY EYES EVER FIERCELY TIGHT, AND MY SOUL CLENCHES INTO A FIST...
...AND THEN ONE NIGHT WHEN THE HAND REACHES IN, I CURL UP SO TIGHT THAT I SHOVE MY OWN MIND DEEP INTO MY UNCONSCIOUS
...AND OUT LASHES A SAVIOR! A WILD, FRENZIED, CLAWING, SCREAMING DEFENDER!
THAT SHADOW--- HE NEVER, EVER FALLS ON ME AGAIN.
"...AND ANOTHER! A GENTLE MAN!
"IT'S DAN! MY GOD, THEY ARE SO BEAUTIFUL."
SPECTRAL IMAGES..
..UNTARN SHED SOULS...
...PURE, INNOCENT, FREE VERSIONS OF THEIR SELVES...
...MY FRIENDS, WE ARE WITNESSING A HOLY MIRACLE.
LET US PRAY

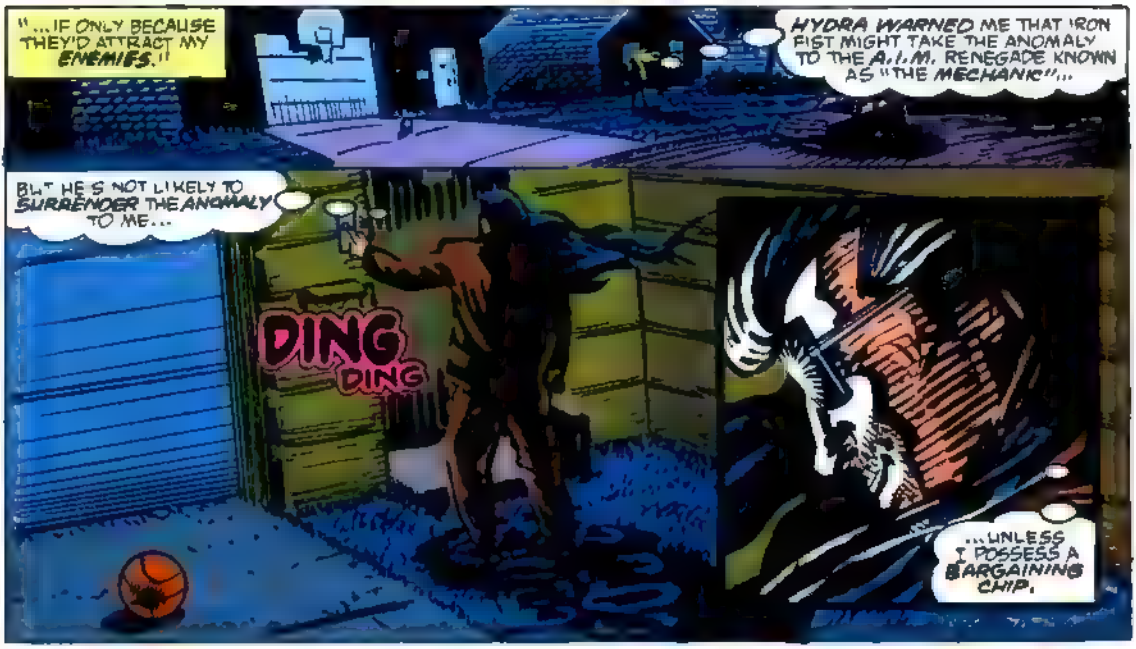
HOW YOU MUST HAVE SUFFERED, MARY.
I SEE NOW THAT THE WORLD CAN ONLY SEE TYPHOID AS A VILLAIN.
BUT YOU ARE A WONDERFUL HERO, A PROTECTOR!
SILLY FOOL. STILL YEARNING FOR THE TIN KNIGHT IN TARNISHED ARMOR?
WHITE KNIGHTS DON'T EXIST!
THERE IS ONLY INSANITY!
YESSS!
WHAT'S THAT THING?
DUSK IS FALLING!
YOU ARE MINE!
OH, MY GOD WHAT IS IT?!
BABY

YOU PROJECTED YOUR LITTLE PATHOS, YOUR ORIGINAL TRAUMA, RIGHT ONTO MY REALM AND INTO MY SKIN..
... I KNOW NOW, FROM WHAT YOU RUN.
SO YOU SHOW YOURSELF, DUSK UNVEILED AND HIDEOUS.
MARY, I LOVE YOU.
AND THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T RUN, LITTLE BABY TYPHOID, FROM ME...
..YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THE MAN--
I CAN HELP YOU DARLIN.
TRUST ME.
MATT?
LOGAN?
DADDY?
GET AWAY!

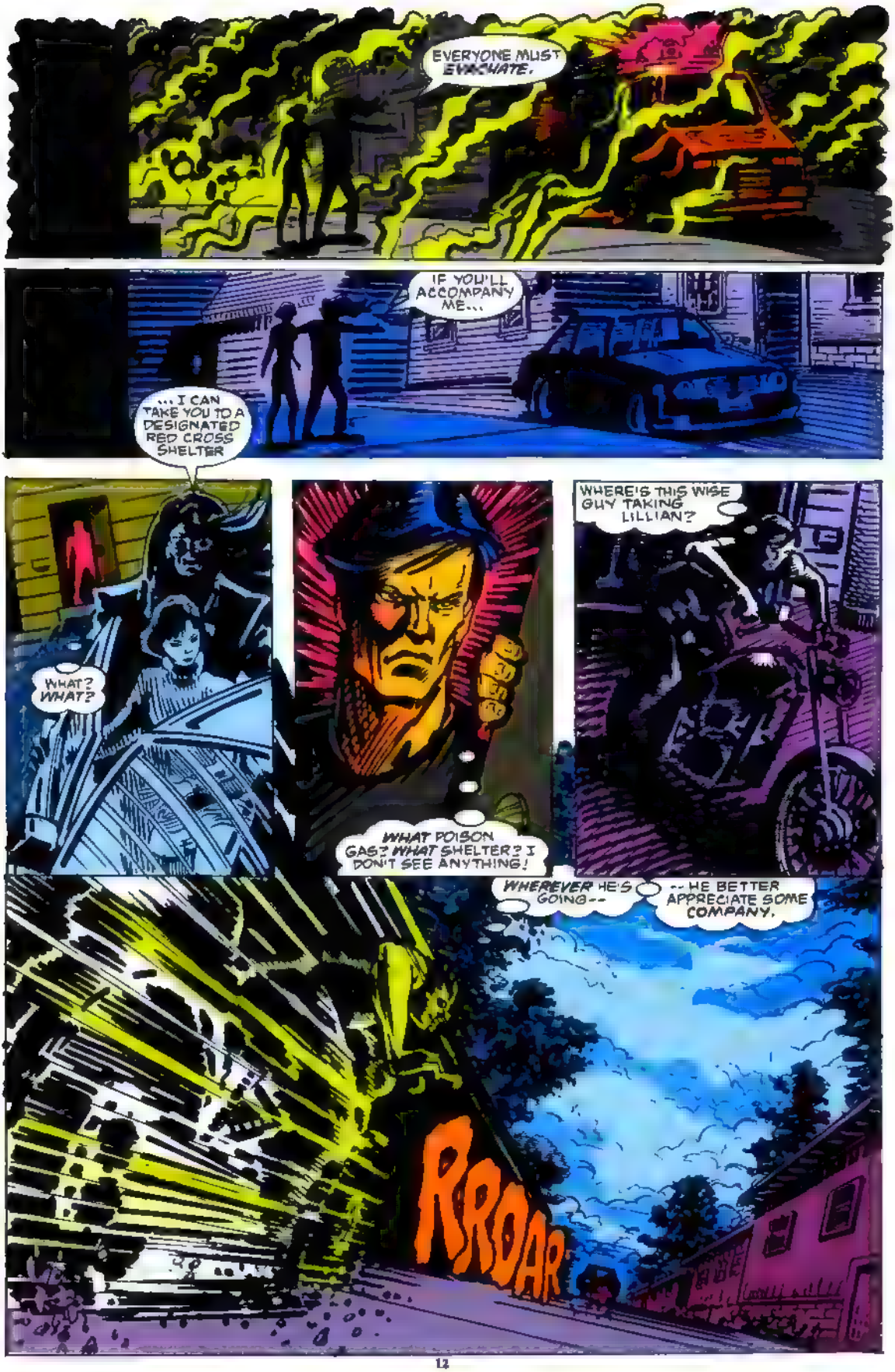
TYPHOID! YOU MUST SUBMIT TO MY WILL! LET MARY OUT OF YOUR HORRID CLUTCHES!
DAN!
RELINQUISH HER INNOCENCE FROM YOUR PRISON!
NO! NONE WILL EVER ENSLAVE ME!
NOW YOU WILL HAVE NONE OF ME!
I HATE YOU ALL FOR HURTING ME AS A CHILD!
I HATE YOU, DUSK, FOR BETRAYING ME AND NOT CURING ME AS YOU PROMISED!
I HATE YOU, GHOST RIDER -- FOR YOUR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AND QUICKNESS TO PUNISH!
I DEFY YOU ALL!
MARY--
--IS--
--FREE!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

FRIENDSHIP REARS ITS UGLY HEAD
THE BOOK OF CHANGES Pt.5
FEATURING
IRON FIST
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I TEND TO FROWN ON VISITORS
YOU'VE A FUNNY WAY OF GREETING A FRIEND
I'VE DONE YOU FAVORS NOW I NEED ONE FROM YOU.
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT THIS IS.
GET IN
GET IN BEFORE YOU RUIN MY REP.
GET IN BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND

ARE YOU CRAZY DRIVING IN HERE LIKE THAT?
I HAVE A REP TO UPHOLD. WHAT IF EVERYBODY KNEW THAT THE MECHANIC WAS IN LEAGUE WITH IRON FIST?
BYE BYE BUSINESS
I COULD HAVE LET YOU GO TO PRISON, "FRIEND".
HOW MUCH BUSINESS COULD YOU DO FROM THERE?
SO FRIENDSHIP REARS ITS UGLY HEAD.
HMMM... ELECTRON MICROSCOPE REVEALS NOTHING FURTHER...
IT'S RESISTING CHEMICAL ANALYSIS...
...WHAT IS THIS PAPERWEIGHT YOU'VE BROUGHT IN?
WOULD IT HELP IF I TOLD YOU THAT THE FORCES OF BOTH A.I.M. AND HYDRA WANT IT VERY BADLY.
OR THAT I'VE BROKEN A FEW OF MY FRIENDSHIPS OVER IT AS WELL?
FRIENDS, ALLIANCES COME AND GO. THINGS LIFE THIS GIZMO OCCUR ONCE A LIFETIME.
THERE ARE NO FRIENDS I'D TRUST WITH THIS...


"...IF ONLY BECAUSE THEY'D ATTRACT MY ENEMIES."
HYDRA WARNED ME THAT IRON FIST MIGHT TAKE THE ANOMALY TO THE A.I.M. RENEGADE KNOWN AS "THE MECHANIC"...
BUT HE'S NOT LIKELY TO SURRENDER THE ANOMALY TO ME...
DING DING
...UNLESS I POSSESS A BARGAINING CHIP.

YES?
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM.
YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THIS...
...BUT THERE'S BEEN A POISON GAS LEAK IN THE AREA
ALL OF YOUR NEIGHBORS--INCLUDING YOURSELF MUST LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY.


EVERYONE MUST EVACUATE.
IF YOU'LL ACCOMPANY ME...
...I CAN TAKE YOU TO A DESIGNATED RED CROSS SHELTER
WHAT? WHAT?
WHAT POISON GAS? WHAT SHELTER? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!
WHERE'S THIS WISE GUY TAKING LILLIAN?
WHEREVER HE'S GOING--
--HE BETTER APPRECIATE SOME COMPANY.
RROAR

LOOK... TRUST ME.
WITH A FRAME LIKE THIS ADDED TO YOUR CYCLE, I COULD BUILD IN DEFENSES THAT--
--YOU MAY NEED SOONER THAN YOU THINK.
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS. YOU'RE BRINGING THE RIFF-RAFF.
SCREECH
THIS A FRIEND OF YOURS, IRON FIST!
HOW GOOD A FRIEND ARE YOU?
GOOD ENOUGH TO WANT TO KEEP HER ALIVE... IN TRADE FOR SOMETHING YOU CAN GIVE ME?
"FRIENDSHIP REARS ITS UGLY HEAD."
I'VE BARELY KNOWN LILLIAN LONG...
... BEFORE SOMEONE'S USING OUR FRIENDSHIP AGAINST ME!

MY POWER OF PERSUASION WON'T WORK ON YOU FROM THIS DISTANCE...
...BUT THIS SHOULD SWAY THE DEAL.
WHOOM
THE CYCLE--!
THUMP
THE MECHANIC'S OUT COLD... AND THE GREAT IRON FIST IS GROGGY ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO THIS!
KLAK
A MILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS JOB! TOO MUCH! TOO EASY!
ONCE MORE, I'VE EARNED MY NICKNAME...
..."COOL MILLION!"
ACGKK!
DON'T CASH THE CHECK YET.
SCREEE

COMPUTER OVERRIDE.
CONTROLS ARE KEYED TO DRIVER'S WEIGHT AND FINGERPRINTS. UNLESS DRIVER IS RE-STORED TO CONTROL...
CAR WILL AUTO-MATICALLY BE SEALED AND DEAD-BOLTED
THUNK
—AND CAR WILL PROCEED TO PRE-PUNCHED-IN DESTINATION.
VROOOOOOOM
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
THE DESTINATION MAY BE PUNCHED IN--
BUT IT'LL SOON BE--
--PUNCHED OUT!
A TRIFLE LATE FOR AN ESCAPE ATTEMPT, IRON FIST!
COOL MILLION'S VEHICLE HAS ALREADY ARRIVED IN OUR MIDST!

THE FIELD IS IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
I TAKE IT WE'RE TO BE PICKED UP FROM ABOVE?
NOT ABOVE...
...BELOW.
AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE!
THE ONLY PASSAGE THAT MATTERS...
...IS THE PASSAGE OF THIS PYRAMIDAL POWER SOURCE--
--INTO THE HANDS OF...
...THE SUPREME HYDRA!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...